

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

LARRY PRESSLEY,

Defendant.

Case No. CR12-318RSL

ORDER DENYING MOTIONS  
TO SUPPRESS

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This matter comes before the Court on defendant's "Motion to Suppress Statements of Defendant," Dkt. # 28, "Motion to Suppress Evidence from Warrantless Search of Defendant's House," Dkt. # 30, and "Motion to Suppress Identification of Firearms," Dkt. # 31. Having reviewed the memoranda, declarations, and exhibits submitted by the parties and having considered the evidence and arguments presented during the hearing on April 30, 2013, the Court finds as follows:

**II. DISCUSSION**

**A. Background**

**1. Defendant's Arrest**

While defendant was serving an unrelated state criminal sentence at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, Washington, the government filed a complaint against him alleging two counts of felon in possession of a firearm as an

1 armed career criminal.<sup>1</sup> Dkt. # 1. That same day, an arrest warrant was issued. Dkt. #2.  
2 Approximately one week later, a magistrate judge issued a writ of habeas corpus ad  
3 prosequendum to transfer defendant from the Washington State Penitentiary to the  
4 United States District Courthouse in Seattle, Washington. Dkt. # 4 at 1. The arrest  
5 warrant was returned on October 5, 2012, indicating it was executed on October 2, 2012.  
6 Dkt. # 5. Defendant made his initial appearance in Seattle on October 10, 2012, Dkt. #  
7 6. The day before his initial appearance, defendant spoke to two Federal Bureau of  
8 Investigation (“FBI”) agents who visited him at the Federal Detention Center (“FDC”)  
9 in Seatac, Washington. During their conversation, defendant made statements that he  
10 now seeks to suppress. Dkt. # 28 at 2.

## 11 **2. Post-Arrest Search of Defendant’s House and Subsequent Investigation**

12 In December 2011, Washington State Department of Corrections (“DOC”)  
13 Community Corrections Specialist Scott Lee (“Lee”) received reports that defendant and  
14 his wife, Dawnica Laird (“Laird”), were committing burglaries and storing firearms and  
15 ballistic vests at their home in Concrete, Washington. Lee also learned that Laird  
16 recently tested positive for multiple kinds of illegal drugs. Dkt. # 1 ¶ 6; Dkt. # 30 at 2.  
17 Laird was under DOC supervision at the time as a result of prior felony convictions.  
18 Dkt. # 1 ¶ 5. After defendant was taken into state custody in January 2012, Lee received  
19 additional reports that Laird was carrying a firearm and storing it in her house. Dkt. # 1  
20 ¶ 7.

21 Based on these reports, Lee believed that Laird was violating the conditions of  
22 her supervision. He decided to arrest Laird and authorize the search of her car and  
23 house. On January 20, 2012, Lee followed Laird in her car from her house in Concrete  
24 to Sedro Woolley, Washington. Id. ¶ 9. Laird was stopped in Sedro Woolley and

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25 <sup>1</sup>Since that time, the government has filed a Superseding Indictment alleging two counts  
26 of possession of a firearm as a career criminal and one count of possession of ammunition as a  
career criminal. Dkt. # 40.

1 arrested for violating the conditions of her supervision and for driving without a license.  
2 Id.; Dkt. # 30 at 2. When Lee told Laird that officers were going to search her house,  
3 she told Lee that she had been staying at friend's home in Sedro Woolley since  
4 defendant's arrest. She said she returned to the Concrete house to take care of her dogs.  
5 Dkt. # 1 ¶ 10.

6 Later that day, Lee and another DOC Community Corrections Officer searched  
7 the Concrete house while Laird was present. Id. ¶ 11. They entered the house using a  
8 key Laird gave them. Dkt. # 30 at 3. During the search, officers seized two handguns,  
9 ammunition, a set of body armor and some drug paraphernalia. Id.; Dkt. # 1 ¶ 11.

10 FBI agents subsequently interviewed several witnesses who reported that they  
11 had seen defendant with a firearm. Dkt. # 1 ¶¶ 15-23. Some of these witnesses saw  
12 defendant with one firearm and others saw that he had two in his home. Id. During  
13 these interviews, the government showed the witnesses pictures of one or both guns that  
14 the witnesses described. Dkt. # 30 at 2-4; Dkt. # 1 ¶¶ 15-23.

## 15 **B. Analysis**

### 16 **1. Statements**

17 Defendant seeks an order suppressing the statements he made to the FBI agents  
18 on October 9, 2012 at the FDC under the McNabb-Mallory rule, Dkt. # 28 at 2-6, which  
19 "generally renders inadmissible confessions made during periods of detention that  
20 violate the prompt presentment requirement of Rule 5(a)." United States v.  
21 Redlightning, 624 F.3d 1090, 1106 (9th Cir. 2010) (quoting Corley v. United States, 556  
22 U.S. 303, 309 (2009)). Rule 5(a) requires a person making an arrest in the U.S. to take  
23 the defendant "without unnecessary delay before a magistrate judge." Fed. R. Crim. P.  
24 5(a). In 1968, Congress enacted 18 U.S.C. § 3501(c), which created a safe-harbor for  
25 confessions obtained within six hours of arrest, so long as the confession was made  
26

1 voluntarily and the weight of the confession is left to the jury. United States v. Garcia-  
2 Hernandez, 569 F.3d 1100, 1104 (9th Cir. 2009).

3 In response, the government argues that there was no delay under Rule 5(a)  
4 because the execution of a writ of habeas corpus ad prosequendum does not constitute  
5 an arrest. Dkt. # 38 at 4-6.

6 A writ of habeas corpus ad prosequendum allows a federal authority to obtain  
7 temporary custody of a prisoner without acquiring jurisdiction, for indictment,  
8 prosecution, and sentencing of the prisoner. Jake v. Herschberger, 173 F.3d 1059, 1062  
9 n.1 (7th Cir. 1999). “When an accused is transferred pursuant to a writ of habeas corpus  
10 ad prosequendum he is considered to be ‘on loan’ to the federal authorities so that the  
11 sending state’s jurisdiction over the accused continues uninterruptedly.” Thomas v.  
12 Brewer, 923 F.2d 1361, 1367 (9th Cir. 1991) (quoting Crawford v. Jackson, 589 F.2d  
13 693, 695 (D.C. Cir. 1978)). The state retains primary jurisdiction over the defendant.  
14 Taylor v. Reno, 164 F.3d 440, 444 (9th Cir. 1998).

15 Based on the temporary nature of this federal custody, the execution of a writ  
16 does not constitute either an arrest or a summons. United States v. Kelly, 661 F.3d 682,  
17 687 (1st Cir. 2011) (a writ of habeas corpus ad prosequendum does not trigger Speedy  
18 Trial Act’s 30-day arrest-to-indictment requirement); United States v. Johnson, 953 F.2d  
19 1167, 1170, 1172 (9th Cir. 1992) (same). Thus, although federal marshals transported  
20 defendant from the Washington State Penitentiary to the district court, the Court finds  
21 that defendant remained in state custody until he was delivered to district court pursuant  
22 to the writ on October 10, 2012.

23 The marshal’s mistake in closing the arrest warrant does not alter the Court’s  
24 finding. The writ commanded the Washington State Penitentiary to produce defendant  
25 at the United States District Courthouse in Seattle, Washington, at 9:00 a.m. on Friday,  
26 October 12, 2012. Dkt. # 4 at 1. Defendant was transported quicker than anticipated

1 and made his first appearance in relation to the federal charges on October 10, 2013.

2 Federal authorities obtained temporary custody of defendant pursuant to the writ when  
3 defendant appeared in district court.

4 Having found the McNabb-Mallory rule inapplicable to defendant's statements,  
5 the Court turns to defendant's argument that his Miranda rights were violated. Dkt. # 28  
6 at 6. Miranda v. Arizona requires that before law enforcement officers may question a  
7 suspect in custody, the suspect must be warned that he has the right to remain silent, that  
8 any statement he makes can and will be used against him, that he has the right to have  
9 counsel present during the questioning, and that if he cannot afford a lawyer, one will be  
10 appointed to represent him. 384 U.S. 436, 467-73 (1966). After a suspect is advised of  
11 his rights, he may waive these rights and respond to police questions. North Carolina v.  
Butler, 441 U.S. 369, 372-76 (1979).

12 To determine whether a suspect's waiver was voluntary, the Court considers the  
13 totality of circumstances. United States v. Harrison, 34 F.3d 886, 890 (9th Cir. 1994).  
14 The Court must determine "whether the government obtained the statement by physical  
15 or psychological coercion or by improper inducement so that the suspect's will was  
16 overborne." Id. (quotations and citations omitted). The inquiry regarding waiver has  
17 two dimensions: "waiver must be voluntary in the sense that it was the product of a free  
18 and deliberate choice rather than intimidation, coercion, or deception, and made with a  
19 full awareness of both the nature of the right being abandoned and the consequences of  
20 the decision to abandon it." Berghuis v. Thompkins, - - - U.S. - - -, 130 S.Ct. 2250,  
21 2260 (2010) (quotations and citation omitted). An accused's waiver need not be express  
22 and may be implied where the prosecution shows that Miranda warnings were given, an  
23 accused understood his rights, and an accused later made an uncoerced statement. Id. at  
24 2262.

25 The totality of circumstances indicates that defendant's waiver was knowing and  
26 voluntary. First, FBI Agent Maron testified that he read defendant his Miranda rights

1 and defendant indicated that he understood them. Second, defendant signed a waiver  
2 form acknowledging that his waiver was knowing and voluntary. Finally, defendant  
3 does not allege that his statements were the product of coercion. The Court, therefore,  
4 DENIES defendant's motion to suppress his statements.

## 5 **2. Evidence Obtained During Warrantless Search**

6 Defendant also seeks suppression of evidence seized during the warrantless  
7 search of his house after his arrest. He contends that this evidence should be suppressed  
8 because DOC Community Corrections Specialist Lee did not obtain a search warrant,  
9 despite ample time to do so, and the warrantless search was not justified under RCW  
10 9.94A.631.<sup>2</sup>

11 Although "the informed and deliberate determinations of magistrates empowered  
12 to issue warrants as to what searches and seizures are permissible under the Constitution  
13 are to be preferred over the hurried action of officers," Georgia v. Randolph, 547  
14 U.S.103, 117 (2006) (quoting United States v. Lefkowitz, 285 U.S. 452, 464 (1932)), a  
15 warrantless search of a probationer's home based on reasonable cause that the  
16 probationer has violated a condition of his or her sentence satisfies the Fourth  
17 Amendment's reasonableness standard. Griffith v. Wisconsin, 483 U.S. 868. 872-73  
18 (1987); United States v. Conway, 122 F.3d 841, 842 (9th Cir. 1997). Because Laird was  
19 on probation for crimes committed in Washington, Lee was not required to seek a  
20 warrant before conducting a search of her home so long as there was reasonable cause to  
21 believe that she violated the conditions of probation.

22 Reasonable cause or reasonable suspicion "requires specific and articulable facts  
23 and rational inferences." State v. Parris, 163 Wn. App. 110, 119 (2011). In addition to  
24 having reasonable cause to believe that a probationer has violated the conditions of his

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25 <sup>2</sup> Defendant attempts to incorporate DOC policies on forced entry searches into the  
26 interpretation of what Washington law is and whether the search complied with the statute.  
This is not appropriate. Griffin, 483 U.S. at 880 n.8.

1 or her probation, Washington law requires that probation officers have probable cause to  
2 believe that the probationer lives at the residence they seek to search. State v.  
3 Winterstein, 167 Wn.2d 620, 630 (2009). “[P]robable cause exists when an officer has  
4 information that would lead a person of reasonable caution to believe that the  
5 probationer lives at the place to be searched.” Id.

6 The Court finds that there was reasonable suspicion that Laird had violated the  
7 conditions of her probation and there was probable cause that she lived at the Concrete  
8 house searched by probation officers. Lee received reports from both Skagit County  
9 Sheriff’s Deputy Fred Harrison and DOC Officer Richard Burton that Laird was in  
10 possession of firearms. The detailed descriptions of the firearms and the reliable nature  
11 of the officers’ sources of information were sufficient to create reasonable suspicion that  
12 Laird was violating the conditions of probation.

13 Similarly, Lee had probable cause to believe that Laird lived at the house he  
14 searched. Lee relied on information from Laird’s DOC supervisor, Cherie Banks, that  
15 Laird’s primary address was the house in Concrete, Washington. Laird was present at  
16 this residence when Banks performed home visits in October and November 2011 and  
17 Laird recently told Banks that she was stranded at this house due to a recent snowstorm.  
18 Although Lee was aware that Laird had been staying with a friend in Sedro Woolley  
19 recently, there was no indication that she had changed her primary residence.  
20 Defendant’s motion to suppress evidence is DENIED.

### 21 **3. Identification of Firearms**

22 Finally, defendant asks the Court to suppress evidence related to the witnesses’  
23 identifications of firearms because the witnesses were shown single photographs of the  
24 firearms in defendant’s home regardless of whether they reported seeing one or both of  
25 the firearms in defendant’s possession or whether they provided accurate descriptions of  
26 the firearms. Dkt. # 31 at 4-5. Defendant concedes that his due process right to reliable  
pretrial identification procedures is inapplicable to physical evidence, but he nonetheless

1 argues that the Court should exclude this evidence under Federal Rule of Evidence 403  
2 due to the suggestive manner in which the photographs were shown to the witnesses. Id.  
3 at 5.

4 Despite defendant's contention to the contrary, the Court finds that the probative  
5 value of the firearm identifications is not outweighed by a danger of unfair prejudice.  
6 See Fed. R. Evid. 403. The interviews of the witnesses and the identification process  
7 were not unduly suggestive. Only after the witnesses reported seeing defendant with  
8 firearms and described the firearms accurately were they shown the pictures of the  
9 firearms recovered from defendant's house. The Court does however find it troubling  
10 that the pictures showed the firearms in defendant's house. However, that detail is  
11 insufficient to warrant suppression of evidence related to the identifications in light of  
12 the witnesses's prior descriptions of the guns. Furthermore, the manner in which the  
13 witnesses identified the firearms and the consistency of their statements goes to the  
14 weight of the evidence, not its admissibility. Thus, the Court DENIES defendant's  
15 motion to suppress evidence related to witness identifications of the firearms.

### 16 III. CONCLUSION

17 For all of the foregoing reasons, defendant's motions to suppress (Dkt. # 28, 30,  
18 31) are DENIED.

19 DATED this 3rd day of May, 2013.

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21 Robert S. Lasnik  
22 United States District Judge  
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